
Works and Instances are the Model



2026

Sept 2025 – Sept 2026

1. Performance Medium Ontology
2. Recording language and script (BCP47 integration)
3. BIBFRAME-based discovery (OPAC)
4. Better FOLIO integration
5. Additional formats: Maps, Music, Film/Video
6. Explore bf:Event potential

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7. **Primer**



BIBFRAME primer

BIBFRAME (BF) provides a model for representing bibliographic data in a linked data environment. This document is a reference guide for those who would like to implement the Bibframe model and vocabulary.

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Bibliographic Framework as a Web of Data: Linked Data Model and Supporting Services

Library of Congress
Washington, DC
November 21, 2012



BIBFRAME primer

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INTRODUCTION

This document describes the BIBFRAME Model and Vocabulary, for use primarily within the library and information science community to describe collection resources. A great number of these resources will be truly bibliographic in nature (i.e. monographs and serials), but the model and vocabulary can accommodate all types of common materials, such as audio recordings, notated music, moving images, etc. This document will consider all of these types as “bibliographic resources,” meaning they are collection resources managed by a cultural organization (mainly libraries). The BIBFRAME vocabulary is presented as an OWL ontology, though constraints and/or domain/range declarations are few.

This document is a user guide for those who would like to represent this type of material using BIBFRAME.

BIBFRAME is expressed in RDF, which stands for Resource Description Framework and which, as part of the name would suggest (“Framework”), is but the basis for something larger. RDF resources are atomic, typically focused on the description of a discrete resource, and knitted together via relationships. In BIBFRAME, a single ‘traditional’ library resource, which was perhaps described in a single MARC record, will be composed of a number of smaller resources that, combined, constitute a small graph of information, with a BIBFRAME Work and BIBFRAME Instance at its heart. That small graph will be part of a larger graph, with resources linking to each other, and so on, resulting in an infinite graph of information.

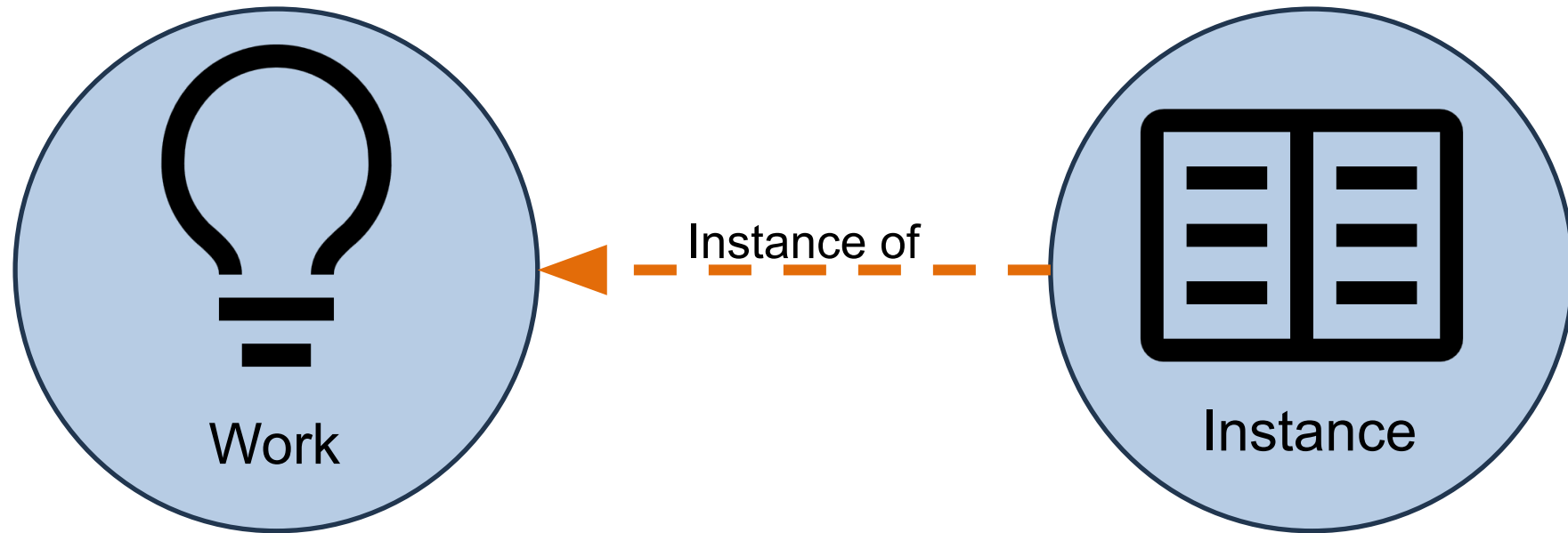
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Works and Instances are the Model

The very core of the BIBFRAME model is composed of two classes, or resource types: **a Work and an Instance.**

It is generally impossible to represent a “complete” or “full” bibliographic resource without one of each of these two types.

Works and Instances are the Model



Works and Instances are the Model

Works represent the conceptual essence of a resource and include characteristics that are common to the assorted manifestations of the Work, like contributors, subjects, summaries and genre/form terms. “Conceptual essence” means all aspects of the resource’s expression.

An Instance represents an individual embodiment – whether physical or electronic - of a Work. An Instance for a physical resource will include information about the resource’s physical details, provision information, and Instance-specific identifiers. An electronic Instance will capture details such as file size, file type, access modes, etc. The BIBFRAME Instance *is similar to* the RDA Manifestation.

Works and Instances are the Model

LCC: BR1328\$b.P358 2003

Dewey: 280/.4/09519 221

Author: Pak, Chǒng-sin.

Title: Protestantism and politics in Korea

Subject: Christianity and politics--Korea--History

Subject: Presbyterian Church--Korea--History

Subject: Korea--Church history

LCCN: 2001027688

ISBN: 0295981490 (alk. paper)

Publication: Seattle, WA : University of Washington Press, c2003.

Description: axi, 316 p. ; 24 cm.

Note: Includes bibliographical references (p. 273-301) and index.

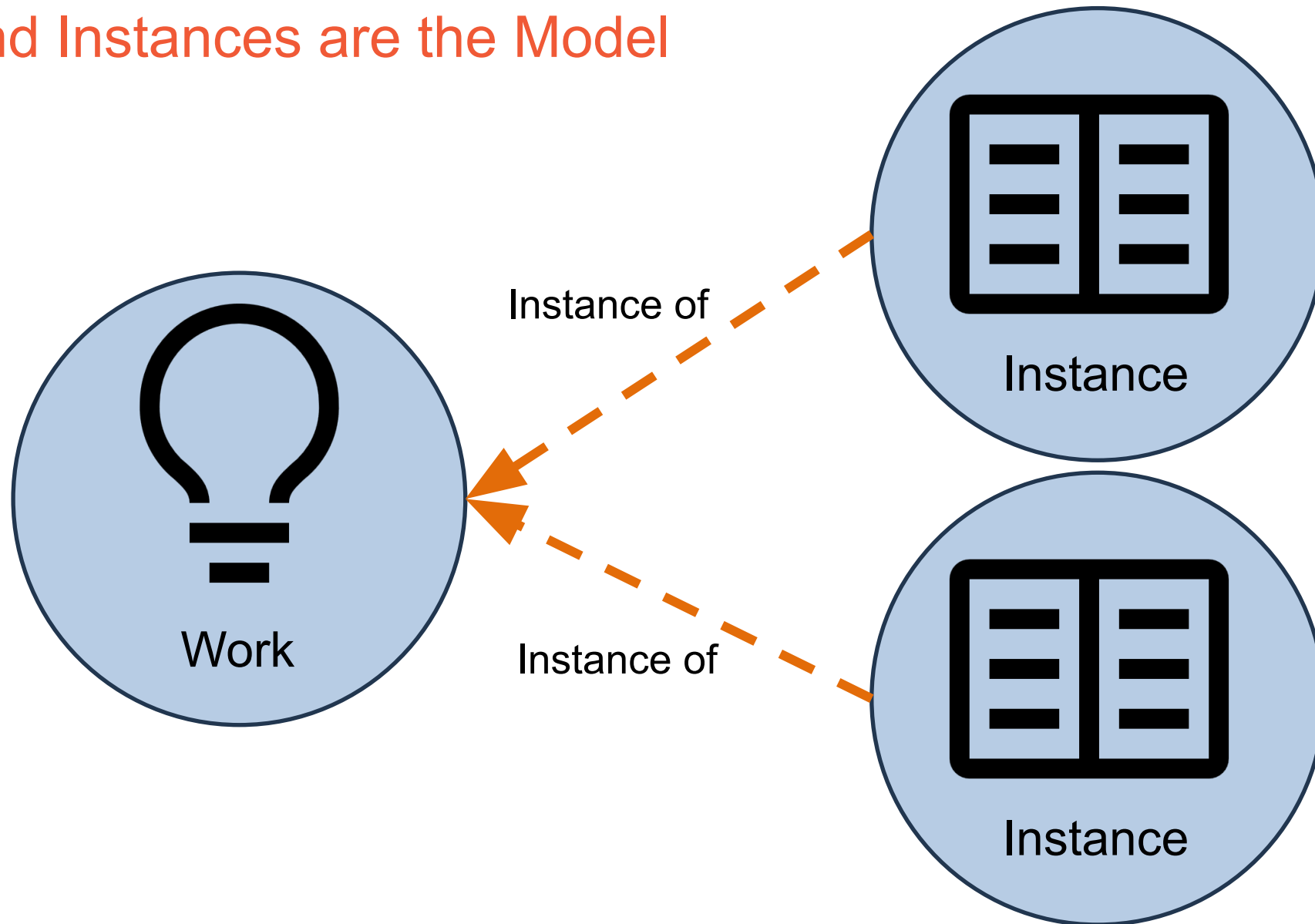
Medium: unmediated

Carrier: volume

Instance of



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LCCN: 2021694487

ISBN: 9780295802084 (ebook)

Publication: Seattle, WA : University of ...

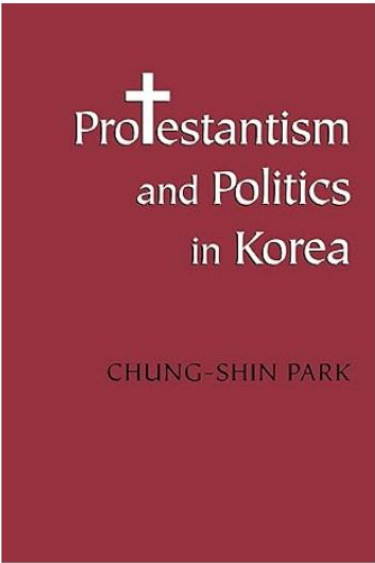
Description: 1 online resource (xi, 316 p.)

Filetype: PDF

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Works and Instances are the Model



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Chung-shin Park



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by Chung-Shin Park (Author)

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Following its introduction to Korea in the late nineteenth century, Protestantism grew rapidly both in numbers of followers and in influence, and remained a dominating social and political force throughout the twentieth century. In Protestantism and Politics in Korea, Chung-shin Park charts this stunning growth and examines the shifting political associations of Korean Protestantism.

Elsewhere in Asia, evangelical Protestant missionaries failed to have much social and political impact, being perceived as little more than agents of Western imperialism. But in Korea the church became a locus of national resistance to Japanese colonization in the fifty years preceding 1945. Missionaries and local adherents steadily gained popular support as they became identified with progressive political reforms.

After World War II and the division of the Korean peninsula, however, most Protestant institutions in South Korea were conscripted into the fight against communism. In addition, they became involved in the postwar push for rapid economic development. These alliances led to increasing political conservatism, so that mainstream Korean Protestantism eventually became a stalwart defender of the authoritarian status quo. A small liberal minority remained politically active, supporting

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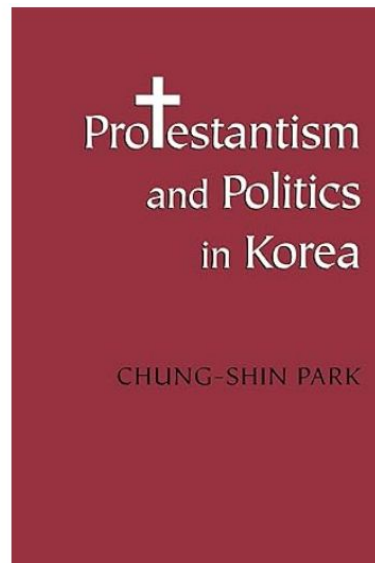
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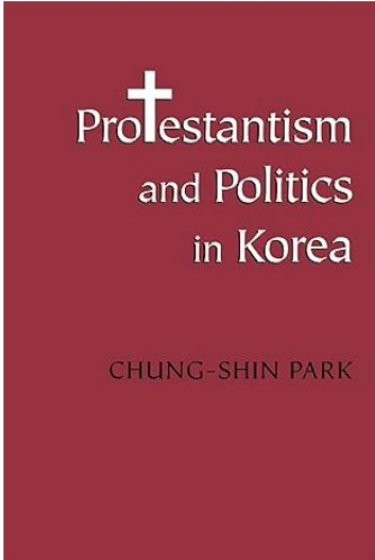
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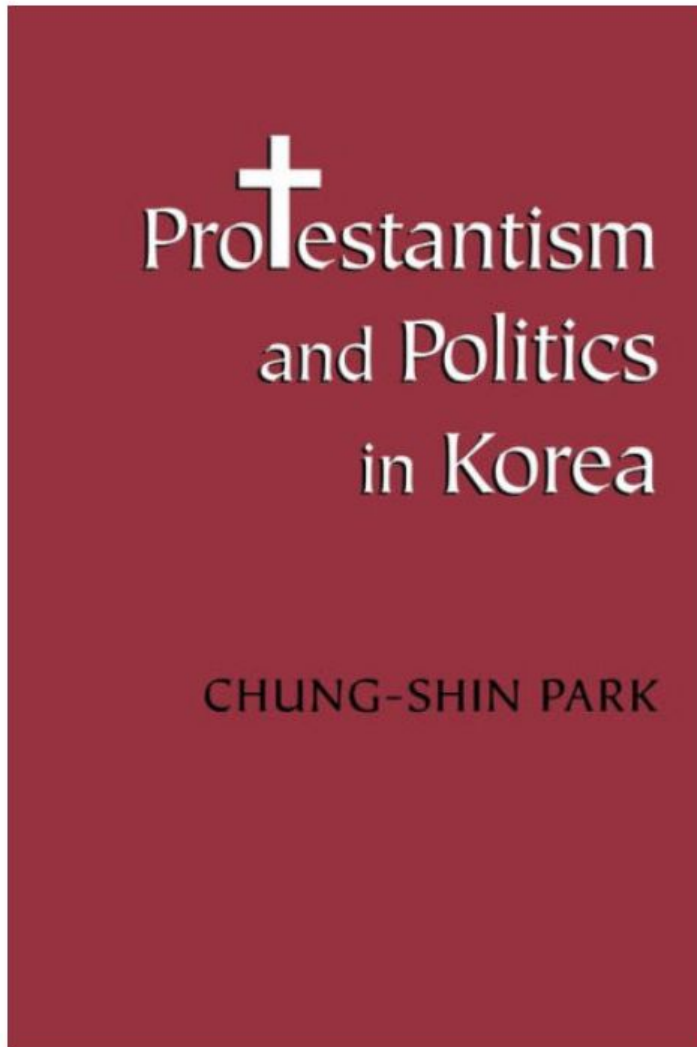
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Style: [Indie Pop](#), [Synth-pop](#), [Alt-Pop](#)
Year: [2017](#)

Tracklist

Green Light	3:54
Sober	3:17
Homemade Dynamite	3:09
The Louvre	4:31
Liability	2:51
Hard Feelings/ Loveless	6:07
Sober II (Melodrama)	2:58
Writer In The Dark	3:36
Supercut	4:37
Liability (Reprise)	2:16
Perfect Places	3:41

<https://www.discogs.com/master/1196330-Lorde-Melodrama>

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	Melodrama 11×File, AAC, Album, 256 kbps, <i>Explicit</i>	Universal Music New Zealand – none		2017	▼
	Melodrama 11×File, AAC, Album, 256 kbps, <i>Clean</i>	Universal Music New Zealand – none		2017	▼
	Melodrama CD, Album	Universal Music Group New Zealand – 5754709	Europe	2017	▼
	Melodrama CD, Album	Universal Music Group New Zealand – UICO-1292	Japan	2017	▼

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BIBFRAME and Content Models (such as RDA)

Bibliographic can be, and often is, complex.

One of the main objectives with the BIBFRAME model and vocabulary – since 2012 – is to have BIBFRAME be content model agnostic while providing enough hooks to allow for individual content models to use BIBFRAME to express their data.

The lack of a 1:1 mapping between BIBFRAME Entities and RDA Entities is intentional. It is a feature, not a bug.

BIBFRAME and Content Models (such as RDA)

RDA is important, of course.

In many libraries, the Resource Description and Access (RDA) content model is the principal means by which to describe content.

RDA abstracts resources into four different parts – called Works, Expressions, Manifestations, and Items - making RDA considerably more complex than BIBFRAME and, likewise, removed from how many perceive of these resources in real life.

RDA can also be rigid in that it functions better for resources described now and into the future versus accommodating of past cataloging practices.

BIBFRAME and Content Models (such as RDA)

BIBFRAME Hubs and Items introduced to ameliorate challenges to accommodating RDA.

Hubs and Item are important classes and entity types but are largely meaningless or pointless without reference to Works and Instances.

BIBFRAME and Content Models (such as RDA)

Hubs are intentionally abstracted bibliographic resources. They can align with any types of abstract resources past or present in bibliographic data. Hubs are designed mainly as resources for aggregation and collocation, taking over the role of traditional “access points” in historical library cataloging. But they can be leveraged to represent RDA Works or RDA (Representative) Expressions also.

The BIBFRAME model and vocabulary, from its very initial inception in 2012, has always been able to accommodate the concept of an “item” but its naming was unclear. Made explicit, an **Item** describes a specific copy of an Instance. The Item provides a way to capture these *descriptive* details about a specific library’s physical copy of a specific bf:Instance. An Item is not intended to be used for inventory control though Item could theoretically be used or understood to function in such a way.

BIBFRAME and Content Models (such as RDA)

RDA in BIBFRAME is possible.

BIBFRAME and Content Models (such as RDA)

RDA in BIBFRAME is possible.

But it takes a little extra effort.

BIBFRAME and Content Models (such as RDA)

RDA in BIBFRAME is possible.

But it takes a little extra effort.

And that's OK.

BIBFRAME and Content Models (such as RDA)

We'll hear varying experiences accommodating RDA in BIBFRAME tomorrow!

Matias Frosterus – 9AM – Aggregates in BIBFRAME

Christopher Holden – 9:30AM – Mapping from RDA to BIBFRAME

Jodi Williamschen – 12PM – Moving Marva Beyond Monographs

BIBFRAME (largely) Unconstrained, and Flexible

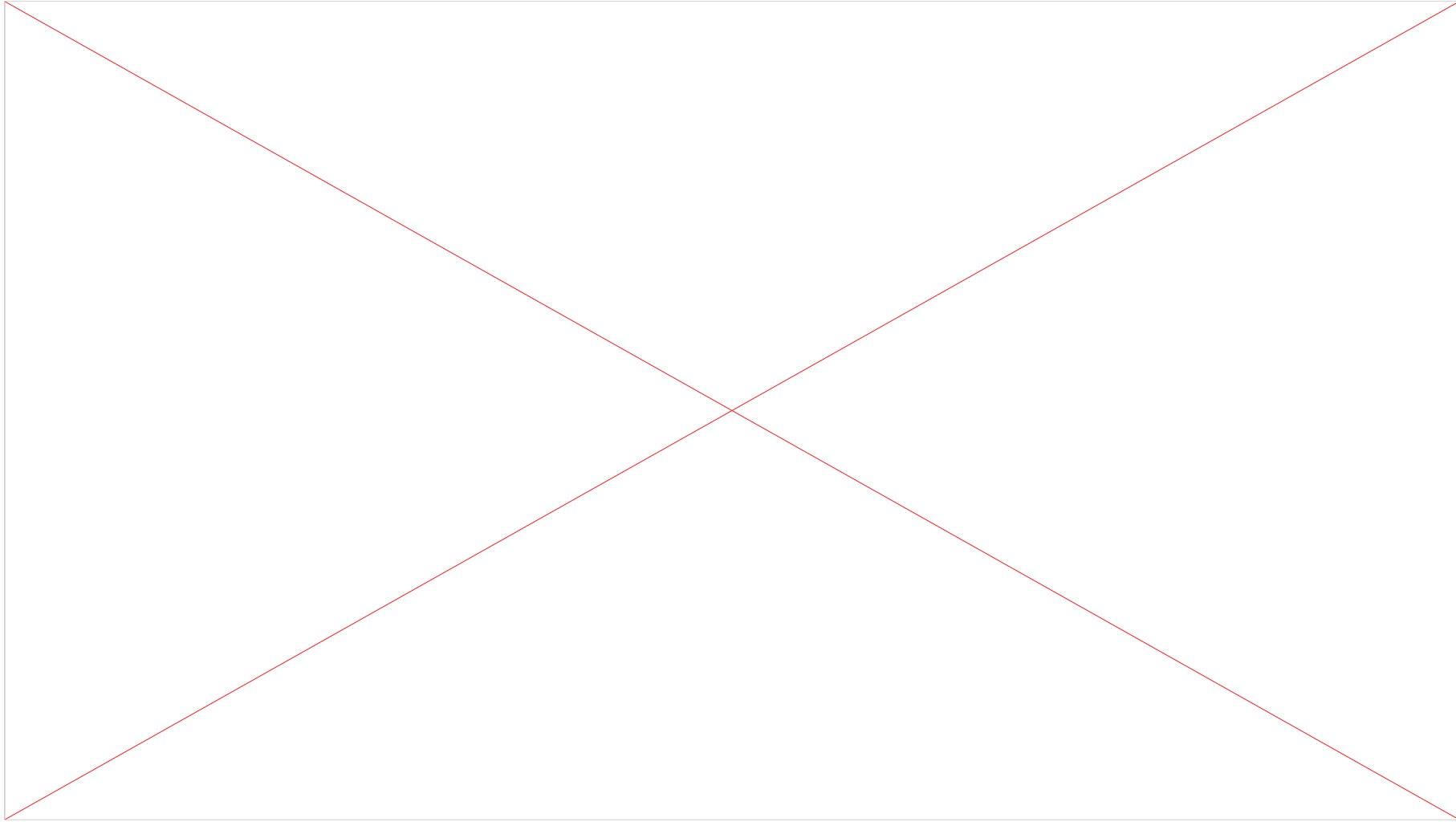
BIBFRAME Vocabulary/Ontology largely unconstrained.

Reasons:

- General realization, overtime, that bibliographic data complexity often defied constraints.
- Domain/Range declarations frequently misunderstood.
- Domain/Range declarations could create undesirable inferences.
- Domain/Range declarations, in short, were impeding adoption.

Result: Greater flexibility of expression.

BIBFRAME data is non-hierarchical graph data



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Thank You

kevinford@loc.gov